

<u>Action</u> <u>by:</u>	
	<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Chair, Natasha Brennan was unable to attend so LPG Coordinator Charlene Mitchell stood in a Chairperson for today's meeting.</p> <p>It was announced that Roisín O'Neill will be Vice-Chair and she was thanked for volunteering her time welcomed to the role.</p>
	<p>2. Previous Minutes from 23rd March 2023</p> <p>Actions from the previous meeting were addressed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Emotion-based school avoidance</i>: a date for training has not been secured due to uncertainty in the community regarding funding. 2. <i>Summer Planning</i>: will be addressed today under Agenda item 5. 3. <i>South Belfast Vice-Chair</i>: Roisin O'Neill has agreed to the role. <p>The rest of the minutes were agreed as accurate and no amendments took place.</p>

3. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	SB1 Hub
Timeframe:	April & May
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	April 19 May to date – 17 Total: 36
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	337
Source of Service Requests:	Self: 20 Community:3 School: 4 HV/Nurse 5 Camhs 1 Other 3

Key Gaps identified:
 Play Therapy / Art therapy.
 Children on reduced timetable – seeking alternative solutions.
 Day-care/Nursery spaces – children with asd/adhd

Key Successes identified:
 Ongoing high number of referrals being processed by the hub

AOB for Sharing:
 Mindfulness – Lorag closed for new referrals, will review mid-August with view to new sessions starting in September.
 Sweet Dreams Trauma support group for refugee and asylum seeker families – 3 week programme in September with dates to be finalised.
 Boosting Brains Programme running in Lorag – on the 25th May-29th June from 10-12pm

FSH Area:	South Belfast II CASA FSH
Timeframe:	April 2023
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	22
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	22 this financial year
Source of Service Requests:	Top referrers: Self, Schools, Health Visitors
Key Gaps identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADHD/ waiting list for ADHD support for parents and children. • Early Years Support for out of Sure Start area. • 14-15 years old staying at home- individual home support. 	
Key Successes identified:	
AOB for Sharing:	

FSH Area:	Outer South & East Belfast
Timeframe:	9 th March – 4 th May
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Mar = 23 Apr = 24 May = 4 Total - 51
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	28
Source of Service Requests:	Self; School; HV; Community & voluntary; EWO; GP/Nurse; CAMHS.
Key Gaps identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & young people on waiting list for autism/ADHD assessment presenting with anxiety / emotional regulation difficulties and anxiety based school avoidance. • Toddlers outside of Surestart area seeking early years placement. • Food & energy poverty – families returning for further support and requesting food bank, supermarket vouchers, gas, electric, oil, uniform vouchers and “any financial support at all”. • Therapeutic services for children and increasingly families – counselling. • Emotion-based school avoidance (no diagnosis) 	
Key Successes identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hub has a good presence in the area evidenced by the increasing referral numbers from across all professions and families themselves. • £2000 has come from BAOG and spent on vouchers. This continues to be distributed to families in need. 	
AOB for Sharing:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some families are contacting the hub again after completing an intervention and seeking further support. I wonder if this indicates a more complex need that requires more long term support. I wonder if other hub co-ordinators are finding themselves having to discuss with the family, the limitations of the hub and advising where to seek further support. In many cases, the doors we are signposting them to have already been closed. E.g., GP, CAMHS etc.. • Some families are returning to the hub for financial support indicating a demand as expected. • Many new families are contacting the hub for financial/practical support including benefit check, foodbank, and supermarket vouchers. • The hub continues to work at maximum capacity. 	

4. Members Updates

Charlene Mitchell - LPG

LPG have issued a survey aiming to assess the impact funding cuts will have on organisations. There has been a good response so far, however in order to get the best overview it was requested that the survey is circulated far and wide, not just within LPG. The closing date is 30th May and the findings will be reported to BAOG.

Paula Mathers – Brain Injury Matters

Brain Injury Matters supports children, young people and their families who have been impacted by an acquired brain injury. They have received funding to develop a peer mentoring programme and a group programme to support teens with an acquired brain injury through the work of a facilitator and mentor, also with an injury.

Referrals are currently open and being accepted for 13-18 year olds with the Belfast area. The programme aims to help young people meet others with the same shared experience, help them learn more about their injury, articulate their needs and to develop social skills.

Please see attached more information from Paula with links to videos and the Brain Injury Matters website.

Marie McGarry - Forward South Partnership, Step Programme

Luna's Worry Warrior workshops for primary schools is still active.

There are a limited number of food vouchers still available where claimants can receive at least a £75 Tesco voucher.

There is some underspend available and it is hoped that a Mindfulness course or programme can be run shortly. However, this will be dependent on costs. Any further update will be circulated.

Roisín O'Neill - Barnardo's

Barnardo's are still open for referrals for their 'Boosting Brains' programme.

5. Summer Planning

It was hoped this agenda item would hold a conversation around what summer plans and provisions were in place, however with the current uncertainty around funding many organisations summer plans are on hold.

The next LPG meeting is scheduled for June, but again with the current climate it is felt that this meeting wouldn't be of any great value so perhaps it would be best to cancel this. However, it was suggested that the group still meet up over the next few months for an informal coffee morning and catch up.

	<p>6. LPG Update</p> <p>The Belfast Area Outcomes Group meeting took place recently and the main topic was around the very serious concerns of funding cuts and how services will continue to operate. The issue is being raised beyond the BAOG and any information received back will be shared.</p> <p>The BHSCT have been using a Data Analyst to heat map the number of children being referred to Hubs, Gateways, Child Protection and LAC. It is a work in progress but it is hoped the full report will be available towards autumn.</p>
	<p>7. A. O. B</p> <p>Now Group are running a Fandom event at 2 Royal Avenue on Saturday 27th May. The convention is about celebrating autism and bringing together a group of people who have a common interest in gaming/Anime. Everyone is welcome to attend.</p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Charlene thanking all those in attendance.</p>

2023 Dates for South Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES (Wednesday)	TIME	VENUES
1 st February	10am	Microsoft Teams
22 nd March	10am	Shaftesbury C&R Centre
3 rd May	10am	Shaftesbury C&R Centre
15 th June	10am	CANCELLED
13 th September	10am	TBA
22 nd November	10am	TBA